



# NSP Informer

NEBRASKA STATE PATROL, Volume 27, Winter 2010

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## A Winter for the Record Books

**F**ROM ITS EARLY arrival in October to its lingering effects felt well into March, the winter of 2009-2010 won't long be forgotten. Several big weather events including a Christmas holiday blizzard and a Valentine's Day snow storm forced road closures and contributed to numerous fatality crashes.

"This winter proved to be a challenge for everyone," said Colonel Bryan Tuma, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. "Not only were our troopers put to the test, but allied agencies, emergency personnel, and motorists themselves endured the brunt of old man winter."

Information posted on the website for the National Weather Service in Valley, Nebraska, indicates the winter of 2009-2010 ranks among the coldest and snowiest on record in eastern Nebraska. The resulting snow pack from major storms prevented temperatures from warming even during favorable weather patterns. The National Weather Service reported record snowfall in several Nebraska cities from October through February.

Snow, accompanied by high winds, caused blowing and drifting, and made travel on roadways in the eastern part of the state all but impossible on numerous occasions over the five month period beginning in October 2009.

Tuma said, "We were put to the test many times this winter. Even though at times it felt as if the sun would never shine, we endured. I want to thank everyone for their dedication and willingness to go the extra mile." ★

### Snowfall amounts from October 1, 2010 – February 28, 2010

Omaha . . . . .	46.8" – 25" above normal
Lincoln . . . . .	40.0" – 20" above normal
Norfolk . . . . .	54.7" – nearly 32" above normal
Grand Island . . . . .	43.9" – 19" above normal
North Platte . . . . .	55.3" – 35" above normal (30" fell in October)
Scottsbluff . . . . .	67.6" – 38.5" above normal (nearly 25" fell in October)



**See Page 11 for more  
winter photos.**

**Beginning with this issue the *NSP Informer* will highlight a different troop area with articles and photos in the "center section".**



## NSP Informer

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## COLONEL'S CORNER



**Col. Bryan Tuma**

Recently I had the opportunity to attend the International Association of Chiefs of Police, State and Provincial Division Mid-Year meeting in Alexandria, Virginia. The United States Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provided funding to every state police or highway patrol agency so their respective leader could attend this conference. The conference was entitled, "The State of State Police" and provided a forum for state police and highway patrol officials to discuss their unique mission requirements, establish future goals and objectives, identify recent challenges regarding the role and responsibilities of state law enforcement agencies, and identify the necessary resources to address those mission requirements. Furthermore, BJA utilized this venue to express their support for state law enforcement agencies and provided an overview of prioritized activities the BJA intends to support. The list of BJA initiatives entails such topics as the continued development and support of the fusion centers, the implementation of information sharing and analytical tools to support criminal justice stakeholders, supporting agencies with capabilities to implement intelligence-led policing and data-driven allocation of police resource models, refining and implementing Suspicious Activity Reporting (SARS) initiatives, and a variety of enforcement programs related to gangs, meth, and prescription drug issues. Based on the list of priority projects, it appears quite evident the future of our policing agencies will be centered around security, technology, and information sharing capabilities. Having said this, it appears highly likely that state police or highway patrol agencies will become the essential link between federal agencies and our local partners.

Another interesting topic discussed at the meeting dealt with National Criminal Justice Commission Act sponsored by Senator Jim Webb (D-VA). The legislation seeks a comprehensive study of law enforcement and criminal justice entities in the United States. Not since the Presidential Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice over 40 years ago, has there been an initiative of this magnitude to assess the complex mission requirements of the policing community and the relationship of the law enforcement community to other criminal justice entities. This legislation represents the opportunity to advance a strategic plan for law enforcement for many years to come.

Clearly, the path for change is wide open. Aside from the significant influx of technology, sharing, and integration concepts, more emphasis will be placed on the definition of roles and responsibilities, efficiency requirements, and the potential for consolidation of resources in the criminal justice community. I urge all of you to conduct your own research on these issues and not be afraid to offer your perspectives to your command staff when the opportunity arises. ★

## We need you – your stories and pictures!!!

Don't keep the fun to yourself. Let the rest of us know what's going on in your Troop Area. Send information and pictures on celebrations, gatherings, milestones, anything of interest to [mike.meyer@nebraska.gov](mailto:mike.meyer@nebraska.gov) then read and see all about it in the next edition of the *Informer*.



# Patrol Sergeant Honored with Patriot Award

Sergeant Dave Hayes, a 20-year veteran of the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) currently assigned to the Executive Protection Detail has been honored with the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), "Patriot Award."

The award was presented during a Friday, March 26, 2010 ceremony attended by Governor Dave Heineman, Colonel Bryan Tuma, and Lieutenant Colonel Dave Sankey, representatives from Nebraska Army National Guard, ESGR, retired Trooper Eli Valenzuela and members of the NSP Executive Protection Detail. The ceremony was held in the Governor's Hearing Room at the State Capitol.

Sergeant Hayes was nominated for the award by retired Trooper Eli Valenzuela, a 25-year veteran of the Nebraska State Patrol, who before his retirement was assigned to the Executive Protection Detail. Valenzuela has served as a member of the Nebraska Army National Guard for 30-years and currently serves as the Nebraska State Command Sergeant Major. He has been on active duty in both Bosnia and Iraq, as well as state active duty for a variety of state emergencies.

In his nomination letter, Valenzuela expressed his gratitude for the flexibility and support provided to him by Sgt. Hayes. Valenzuela wrote, "Sgt. Hayes has always given me the time off to attend drills, as well as additional military obligations commensurate to the rank that I hold. His support was clearly displayed when our Guard unit was called to state active duty in support of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, and I had to leave for three weeks with



**Sergeant Dave Hayes receives the Patriot Award from Bill Nelson, Executive Director of ESGR (Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve.)**

hardly any notice at all."

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Executive Director Bill Nelson, presented the award to Sgt. Hayes.

The "Patriot Award" given on behalf of the Department of Defense recognizes deserving employers whose support and goodwill are important to retaining highly skilled and qualified members of the Guard and Reserve. ★

# Trooper Richardson Receives Life Saver Award

For the Zapata family of Otoe County, Nebraska the sight of Trooper Chris Richardson at their door on December 2, 2010 was a godsend. Trooper Richardson was the first responder to a 911 call of a baby not breathing. Upon his arrival at the Zapata home, Trooper Richardson took the baby from his father and using his first aid training opened the infant's airway. Baby Damian spit up and began breathing and crying but with extreme difficulty. Any little movement led him to stop breathing.

Trooper Richardson carried the infant to the ambulance and stayed with the baby, maintaining his airway on the ride to the hospital in Syracuse. Prior to arriving Trooper Richardson advised 911 to have the medical helicopter en route to the hospital. Once at the Syracuse facility, baby Damian was flown to a Lincoln hospital and admitted to the pediatric ICU.

On January, 27, 2010, a still recovering baby Damian and his very thankful mother Teresa were present as Colonel Tuma presented Trooper Richardson with the Nebraska State Patrol Life Saver Award. The award

presentation was conducted during the Headquarters Troop-Lincoln winter meeting. ★



**Trp. Richardson receives the Lifesaver Award from Col. Tuma**



# SEATBELT SUCCESS STORY

On December 11, 2009, State Patrol Community Service Officer Trp. Chuck Elley of Scottsbluff, gave a "Seatbelt Awareness" presentation to more than 500 students at Gering High School.

His presentation included Mr. Lee Dick, Scottsbluff Athletic Director, talking about a serious crash he and his wife were involved in. Neither of them had seatbelts on and both sustained serious injuries. They explained to the students the pain they went through and surgeries that would have been avoided if they had worn their seatbelts.

Elley also showed the students what can happen when an unbelted person is ejected from a vehicle.

Four days later, Gering junior Christian Ross, who admitted he never wore his seatbelt before the presentation, was involved in a serious crash near Mitchell, Ne. when he rear-ended a stopped school bus at 50 mph suffering only minor injuries.

Troopers and deputies at the scene said that if Ross had not been wearing his seatbelt, chances are he would have been killed. Ross later told Trooper Elley that the presentation scared him and convinced him to buckle up! ★



# Phase II Statewide Radio Network Activation Held in Troop D

In early March 2010, the Nebraska State Patrol Troop D Headquarters-North Platte hosted the Phase II Activation of the Nebraska Wireless Interoperable Network (N-WIN). Nebraska State Patrol Superintendent, Colonel Bryan Tuma, served as Master of Ceremonies for the event held at the North Platte Airport.

Governor Dave Heineman, Lt. Governor Rick Sheehy, representatives from Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), and Motorola, joined other state officials in flipping the switch on the second phase of the four phase

project. A similar event was held in Scottsbluff in September 2009, with the activation of Phase I.

The statewide radio network is being developed through a partnership between state government and the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) and upon its completion will provide interoperable communication to first responders across the state.

The Nebraska State Patrol would like to thank Trego Aviation for allowing the use of its hangar to host the Phase II Kickoff. ★



*EDITORS NOTE: Beginning with this issue of the NSP Informer newsletter, we will feature a different troop area in the middle section. This edition features State Headquarters ... next will be Troop E. Please submit interesting stories, events, etc. to [mike.meyer@nebraska.gov](mailto:mike.meyer@nebraska.gov).*

## NSP State Headquarters Hosts Blood Drives

For the past two years, sworn and civilian members of the Nebraska State Patrol both sworn and civilian have been rolling up their sleeves and giving blood to the American Red Cross.

Six blood drives hosted by State Headquarters led to the donation of six and one-half gallons of blood and more importantly the saving of approximately 297 lives. The blood drives were organized by Lynne Woody, Administrative Assistant in the Superintendent's office, with assistance from SHQ receptionists Connie Pierce and Diane Conley.

"We were approached by the American Red Cross about the possibility of hosting a blood drive," said Lynne. "The first drive went well and before we knew it, our one drive, turned in to a two-year commitment."

The American Red Cross parked its bloodmobile in front of State Headquarters and employees were allowed to use one hour of state time to donate blood. Posters were put up and information on how to sign up for the blood drive E-mailed to employees prior to the date.

Lynne said, "I think having the drive on-site helped with participation. It provided an opportunity for those who had never given blood before to give, and made it convenient for our employees who otherwise had to make a special appointment on their own time to give blood."

Statistics from the American Red Cross show nearly every two seconds, someone, somewhere needs blood, yet only about 5% of the population actually donates.

"I want to thank everyone who donated, as well as those who tried and couldn't for one reason or another" said Lynne "Because everyone made a difference."

Anyone interested in hosting a blood drive in their troop area, should contact their local American Red Cross Chapter.



*Red Cross Bloodmobile at SHQ."*



*Major Tom Schwarten relaxes while donating blood.*



## 4th Annual Chili Cook-off Draws Hungry Crowd

Beans, no beans, red, white, mild or spicy, the Nebraska State Patrol State Headquarters 4th Annual Chili Cook-off had it all. On a sunny February afternoon, employees of State Headquarters gathered in the downstairs commons area to taste, vote and devour a variety of homemade chili. Participants were given a tasting cup, spoon and ballot as they entered. Upon completion of their ballot, they were given a big bowl in which to enjoy their favorite(s). Additional treats, including homemade cinnamon rolls, chocolate chip cookies, cornbread, relishes, cheese, and crackers and a big jug of ice tea brought by others to complement the variety of soups.

"Exciting", "delicious," and "I'm stuffed", were some of the many comments that could be heard among the tasters. A big thank you goes out to the 10 chili cooks and to the Legal Division for organizing the much anticipated event. The winners of this year's chili cook-off receive bragging rights as well as a chip and dip set.



*The chili awaits!*

**Continued on page 8...**  
**Chili Cook-off photos**  
**and recipes**

## For the Love of Quilting

She calls it a hobby, but if you've ever had the opportunity to talk with Jerry Lee Jensen about quilting, you might say it's more of a love. The Human Resources Administrator with the Nebraska State Patrol since July of 2008, her office walls at State Headquarters-Lincoln, provides visitors just a taste of her talent when it comes to quilting.

Encouraged by a friend to take up quilting, Jerry Lee estimates she's made hundreds of quilts in the 16 years since she began her hobby.

"Honestly, I've lost count," Jerry Lee said. "Right now, I'm working on 18 different quilts from wall hangings to bed size."

Oak wall quilt racks spread throughout her home are used to display her quilts. Rotating her quilts enables her to decorate her house depending on the season.

"They are great on coffee tables and of course to cover up with on cold snowy winters like this one," she said. "The flannel ones are especially nice for that".

Twice a month, Jerry Lee opens her home to her quilting group. The women gather to work on their current projects, offering advice on colors, sharing patterns and ideas and more importantly enjoying each other's company. Jerry Lee says the friendship quilting has brought her is one of the things she enjoys the most.

So what does she do with all of her quilts? Many of them are given to family members and friends for special occasions. Jerry Lee doesn't sell her quilts or take money to make them, because she doesn't want to turn her hobby into a job.

"Most people remember their grandmother's or aunt's quilt with sentiment," said Jerry Lee. "They were hand pieced, with the fabric often holding a special meaning."

So, if you ever find yourself the recipient of a quilt by Jerry Lee, there shouldn't be any doubt, it was a labor of love.

Editor's note- If you are interested in learning more about quilting, Jerry Lee recommends visiting the UNL International Quilt Study Center & Museum, on the University of Nebraska -Lincoln East Campus, 1523 North 33rd Street. Or you can visit their website at [www.quiltstudy.org](http://www.quiltstudy.org)

She also recommends the following websites:

[www.allpeoplequilt.com](http://www.allpeoplequilt.com)  
[www.freequiltpatterns.info](http://www.freequiltpatterns.info)



*Above: Jerry Lee Jensen in front of one of her many quilts.*



*Left: Jensen presents a quilt to Capt. Rod Getting at his retirement ceremony.*

WINNING RECIPE MADE BY KARI SCHMIDT:

## Natalie's Pork Chili Verde

### INGREDIENTS:

3 pounds pork loin roast, trimmed of fat and diced  
One yellow onion  
One 16 oz. jar La Victoria Green Salsa (medium)  
One 7 oz. can Herdez Salsa Verde (or any small can hot salsa Verde)  
Garlic, pressed or powdered (not garlic salt)  
Salt  
White pepper  
Cumin  
Two cans Great Northern Beans, un-drained

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Cube meat and dice the onion, small. Season the pork and onions with salt, garlic powder (or fresh minced garlic) and a generous amount of both white pepper and cumin. Brown both in a large skillet, then add to a warm crock-pot. Stir in the La Victoria Green Salsa. Bring to a simmer, and cook on low about 4 hours. Add the can of Salsa Verde. This will add the heat. If not hot enough, you can add two cans of salsa, or finish it off with some green hot sauce (Emeril and Tabasco brands both make green hot sauce).

About a ½ hour before the meat is fully cooked tender, add the two cans of beans, do not drain. The bean "juice" will help to thicken the chili. If it is too thick, a small amount of broth or hot water can be added. Be prepared to adjust the spices (cumin, salt, white pepper, and hot sauce) to taste.

Simple AND Delicious!



*The Legal Division hosted the chili cook-off. They are, from L – R: Steve Shaw, first place winner Kari Schmidt, Shawn Edwards, Wendy Wussow, and Fred King.*



*Major Russ Stanczyk dishes up a chili sample."*

## Recipe for Steve Shaw's Cornbread

Marie Calander cornbread mix-bake according to package directions

While cornbread is baking prepare topping (per pan) using:

1 stick margarine  
2/3 cup pancake syrup  
½ cup honey

After removing cornbread from oven, poke holes in the top with a fork and drizzle prepared mixture.



*Chili cook-off "judges" at work!*



# CIVILIAN SPOTLIGHT

## Joann Morse – SHQ Lincoln

### Position?

Accounting Clerk II

### How long NSP employee?

6 months

### Favorite part of the job?

Working with a lot of great people

### Something few people know/understand about your job?

It involves more than paying invoices.

### Something few people know about you?

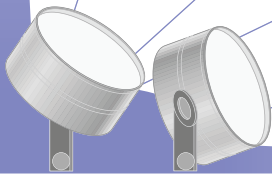
I am actually a princess, my great grandparents had to flee their country – but seriously, I am a Veteran of the US Army, having served 8.5 years.

### Family?

(spouse, children, etc...) Son – Josh, grandson - Dominic

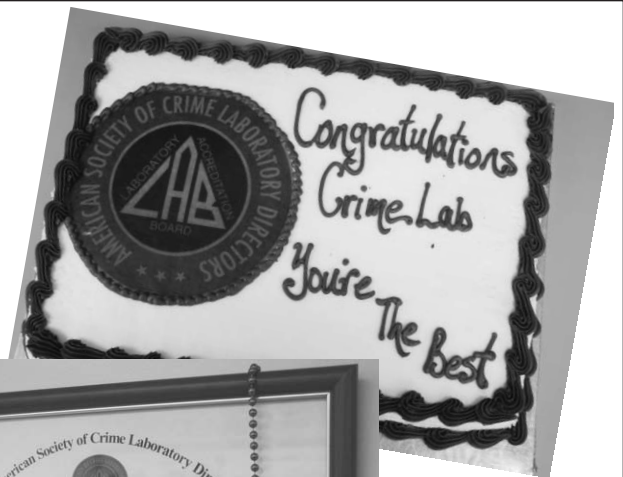
### Hobbies?

Horseback riding, reading, crossword puzzles



## Crime Lab Reaccredited

In August 2009, the Nebraska State Patrol Crime Laboratory underwent a reaccreditation inspection by a team of inspectors from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB). The lab was inspected against 152 national quality assurance standards and did exceptionally well with only one finding in need of remediation. That remediation was completed and accepted in December. On March 4, 2010, the Crime Lab staff celebrated receipt of their new ASCLD/LAB Accreditation Certificate.



# TROOP AREA NEWS

## HQ TROOP

- Sgt. Kurt Von Minden, Trp. Shane Flynn, and Com. Specialist Supervisor Becky Bliven, assisted with the rescue of three individuals in a severe winter storm in December. They received the Lifesaver Award.
- Congratulations to Trp. Rob Pelster and his wife, Kathryn, on the arrival of their first child, Landon Robert Pelster, on December 29, 2009.

## TROOP A

- Trooper Trinity Jones was one of the NSP Personnel to receive the Lifewaver Award for his role in the December rescue of three stranded motorists.
- Trp. Keith Bell had a close encounter with a wild animal! Patrolling Interstate 80 west of Omaha, he stopped to help with a stalled vehicle. The driver said the car just stopped running. They raised the hood and to their surprise found a cat (very much alive!) caught by a rear leg in the serpentine belt.



*Trp. Bell's mean cat.*

The cat was freed and ran across the Interstate, stopping traffic, as Trooper Bell gave chase and captured the rogue feline in the median. The now crazed feline was in no mood to be in the company of his rescuers and did what came naturally.....bit Trp. Bell's hand! He took the cat to the Humane Society where it hid under the dash of his patrol unit! This time Trooper Bell, having already experienced the gratitude of this blessed creature, turned over the capture to Humane Society staff.

Trp. Bell quickly recovered from his injuries and there were no complications from the bite! He has forgiven the cat and holds no grudge. His co-workers had his feelings in mind as well - they captured a picture of the co-star!

## TROOP B

- Troop B went almost three months without a fatal traffic accident. This during some of the worst winter storms in recent years.
- Trp. Glen Waddle, #396, continues to recover at home. Glen arrived back in Stanton in time for Christmas. His journey started with brain surgery in Omaha in March 2009. After complications, and spending 7 months at the Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln, Glen was happy to be home, even though he and wife Kim, were snowed in by a blizzard shortly after arriving!

Glen started therapy at the Faith Regional Health Services hospital in Norfolk in January, and continues to show improvement and can walk short distances with a walker. In March he graduated from speech therapy, and he continues to work toward his goal of being able to throw away his wheel chair for good. A highlight of the Troop B winter meeting with the state headquarters command staff was Glen's attendance. It was a great reunion!



*Glen Waddle at the Troop B Winter Meeting. Behind him, from L-R, are Trp. Jason Petty, Trp. Melanie Lueders, Sgt. Scott Rutten, Trp. Wes Peters, and Trp. Bob Rudloff.*

## TROOP C

- There have been several additions to the troop area. Trooper Dan Parker and his wife are the proud parents of a baby girl. Trooper Paul Hazard and his wife are also parents of a new baby girl. Troopers Michael Hiekenen and Kyle Johansen have welcomed baby boys to their families. Congratulations to all!
- The many winter storms kept Troop C very busy with road closings, bad roads, and very serious driving conditions. There were several weather-related fa-

talities accidents and other serious accidents.

- The command staff has attended several meetings for the upcoming 2010 State Fair which is to be held in Grand Island in late summer. Several projects are underway including the MM 314 exit that will be widened to four lanes to accommodate increased fair traffic. The location of the fair will be a new experience for Troop C as well as the rest of Nebraska.

## TROOP D

- March 3, 2010, Governor Dave Heineman was in North Platte when the second phase of the statewide radio network went online, linking a total of 38 western counties to the new system. \*See story elsewhere in this issue.
- March 7, 2010, Inv. Paul Gaboury was honored by the North Platte American Legion Annual Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for the State Patrol.

## TROOP E

- Trooper Sam Winters retired in December after serving the state of Nebraska for more than 25 years. Sam served in a variety of positions in Troop E including Safety Education, Alcohol/Tobacco Investigator, Traffic, and Carrier Enforcement. Sam and his wife Jenay will continue to reside in Gering. Congratulations Sam!
- Dispatcher I Ann Harris resigned in January to spend more quality time with her newborn son, Jack. Ann had almost nine years with the agency in Troop D and E. Ann will be missed greatly by her friends and co-workers in Troop E.
- Congratulations to Monica Bartling on her promotion to Lieutenant-Investigative Services effective March 15. Monica previously served as the criminal sergeant in Troop E and has been acting lieutenant since last fall.
- Carrier enforcement added two troopers to their ranks in Troop E. Trooper Jeff Dunton transferred from Traffic Services-Sidney and Trooper Robby Jackson transferred in from PSD-Kimball. Sgt. Copp has been busy training his new troops!

## CARRIER ENFORCEMENT

- Trooper Katie Glass and family welcomed a new baby boy, Aiden, on January 6. Congratulations!
- Carrier Troops have been busy escorting superloads through the state. (see photo)



*Superload sitting south of McCook Hwy 83.*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TROOP B

## WINTER 2010





# Personnel Changes

(December 2009 • January 2010 • February 2010 • March 2010)

## NEW HIRES

NAME	POSITION	LOCATION
Emily Schoenleber	Communications Specialist	Lincoln
Katherine Carter	Communications Specialist	Lincoln
Lauren Mollard	Crime Analyst	Lincoln
Laura Kortum	Staff Assistant I - Grants	Lincoln
Megan Stringer	Security Guard	Capitol Security
Anthony Procacina, Jr.	Security Guard	Capitol Security
Samuel Sanchez	Security Guard	Capitol Security
Brian Kraft	Security Guard	Capitol Security
Sylvia Hiatt	CID Records Technician	CID - Records Technician Division
Margaret Lanik	Communications Spec. PT	HDQ

## RETIREMENTS

NAME	OLD POSITION	LOCATION
Robert McKelvey	Trooper TS - Troop A	Fremont
Rodney Getting	Captain - SHQ	Lincoln
Samuel Winters	Trooper CE - Troop E	Scottsbluff
Eli Valenzuela	Trooper - Executive Protection	Lincoln
Charles Oden	Communications Specialist	Lincoln
Lee Volkmer	Security Guard	Capitol Security - Lincoln

## PROMOTIONS

NAME	OLD POSITION	NEW POSITION
Stacy Acklie	Record Technician - CID	Fingerprint Technician - CID
John Jack	Security Guard - Capitol	Security Comm. Specialist - Capitol
Todd Wiley,	Investigator - HDQ Troop	Investigative Sergeant - ICAC - Lincoln
Kor Tot	IT Applications Developer	IT Appl. Developer/ Senior

## TRANSFERS

NAME	OLD POSITION	NEW POSITION
Ken Dahlke,	Lieutenant - RP - SHQ	Lieutenant - TS - HDQ
Jason Dean	Lieutenant - TS - HDQ	Lieutenant - RP - SHQ
Gregory Miller	Trooper - TS - Scottsbluff	Trooper - CE Portables - Lincoln
David Ramsey	Trooper - TS - Norfolk	Trooper - TS - Omaha
Michael Mallery	Trooper - TS - Seward	Trooper TS - Lincoln
Eric Pfeiffer	Trooper - CE - Sidney	Trooper - CE Portables - Norfolk
Kyle Johansen	Investigator - Stromsburg	Trooper - CE - Osceola Portables
Jeffrey Dunton	Trooper - Traffic - Sidney	Trooper - CE - Sidney
Michelle Boerger	Fingerprint Technician - CID	Personnel Assistant - HR
Monica Bartling	Sgt. IS Trp E	Lieutenant-IS Trp E

**NEBRASKA STATE PATROL**

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